



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

June Law of the Month

Now that Wisconsin is finally getting nicer weather, people will start doing more outdoor activities. One of the many activities includes going boating on Wisconsin waterways. This law of the month focuses on Boating Safety Certificates.

In Wisconsin you are required to have a Motorboat Certification to be able to drive a boat on Wisconsin waterways. When you are operating a motorboat you need to carry the certificate on you at all times. There is an exemption if you were born before January 1, 1989, you do not need a boating safety certification, but if you were born on or after January 1, 1989, you need to have a valid Boating Safety Certification. Under this Wisconsin statute no one under the age of ten years old can operate a motorboat. This is very important to have when boating to ensure not only your safety, but the safety of other people who enjoy boating as well.

30.678 Boating Safety Certificates; requirements; exemptions; operation by minors.

(1) MOTORBOATS OTHER THAN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.

No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat. No person who is at least 10 years of age but under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat unless he or she is accompanied in the motorboat by a parent or guardian or by a person who is at least 18 years of age and who is designated by a parent or guardian. No person who is at least 12 years of age but under 16 years of age may operate a motorboat unless one of the following applies: The person holds a valid boating safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c). The person is accompanied in the motorboat by a parent or guardian or by a person who is at least 18 years of age and who is designated by a parent or guardian. No person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat unless the person holds a valid safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c). No person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a personal watercraft unless the person holds a valid safety certificate issued under s. 30.74 (1) (a) or a valid boating safety certificate that is honored under s. 30.74 (1) (c).